



**USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Pest Detection and Management Programs  
4700 River Road, Unit 137  
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**January 22, 2004 PROGRAM UPDATE:**

***Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2: New Detection**

During the week of January 12, PPQ continued to hold potentially infected plants but put a temporary moratorium on their destruction pending the results of a site visit to the suspect production facility in Guatemala. Two PPQ scientists conducted inspections and diagnostic tests, and developed a water effluent sampling scheme to detect *Ralstonia* during the January 13-15, 2004 visit.

In Guatemala, the scientists found wilted plants among two of the three suspect varieties at several locations in one greenhouse. They confirmed the presence of *Ralstonia* in samples from these plants with two different serologically-based tests. They also confirmed *Ralstonia* in effluent water from the third suspect variety.

Based on the findings in Guatemala, PPQ reinstated the destruction order for the three suspect varieties and other potentially exposed plants on January 16.

PPQ released the final version of the *Ralstonia* action plan, it is available at:  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/ralstonia/rasltoniaactionplanv4web.pdf>

Nationally, 41 states have a total of 458 suspect facilities, 314 facilities are being held, 25 control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) are complete, 20 facilities have been released, and more than 404,000 cuttings or plants have been destroyed.

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